

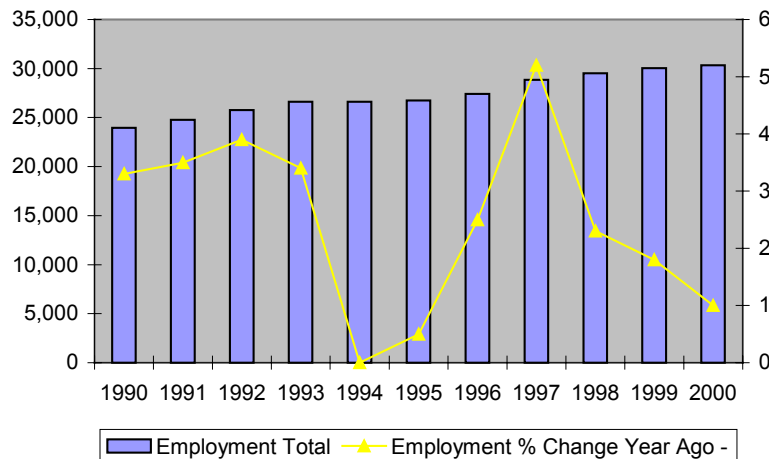
Employment

The oil bust forever scarred employment trends during the 1980s across the state. Texas emerged from a recession in the early 90s with tremendous vigor and record growth. The same is true for College Station. Although the rate of growth has varied from year to year, employment gains have steadily increased since 1990. The majority of the employment growth is correlated to the proximity to Texas A&M University as well as other resources in Houston.

Top 10 Employers
Texas A&M University System
Bryan Independent School District
Sanderson Farms
St. Joseph Hospital
City of Bryan
College Station Independent School District
Brazos County
Universal Computer Systems
City of College Station
Wal-Mart Supercenter - Bryan

Professional and research and development oriented activities are driving employment in the private sector as tenants are attracted to Texas A&M's Research Park and College Station's two business centers.

Figure 6: Employment in College Station, 1990 - 2000



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and Texas Real Estate Center

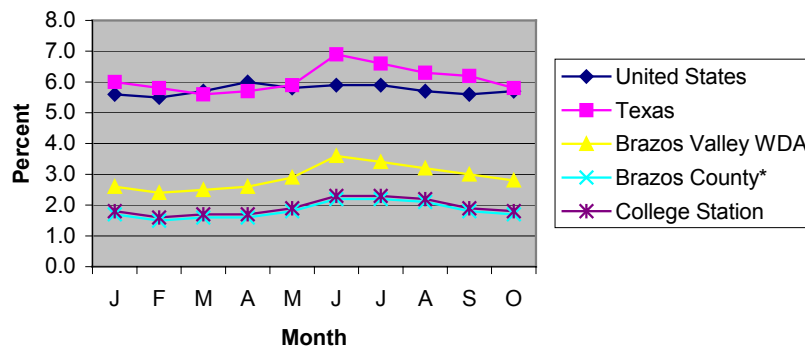
The largest area overall employer is TAMU with over 12,000 employees. Traditionally, the Bryan-College Station area has not been associated with industrial or manufacturing activities. Of the largest private employers, food production, medicine, software/technology, retail, banking/finance and building production are all represented.

Top 10 Private Employers
Sanderson Farms
St. Joseph Hospital
Universal Computer Systems
Wal-Mart Supercenter - Bryan
Reliant Building Products
Decision One
College Station Medical Center
Scott & White Clinic
First American Bank

Labor Force

The Brazos Valley, including College Station enjoys some of the lowest unemployment rates in the state. However, this does not come without a cost as College Station continues to deal with underemployment issues. Underemployment results when portions of the labor force are either working in positions or fields in which they are overqualified. Locally, unemployment rates mimic the trends of the larger regions in Texas, but continues to remain very low due in large part to the economic stability of the largest area employer, Texas A&M University.

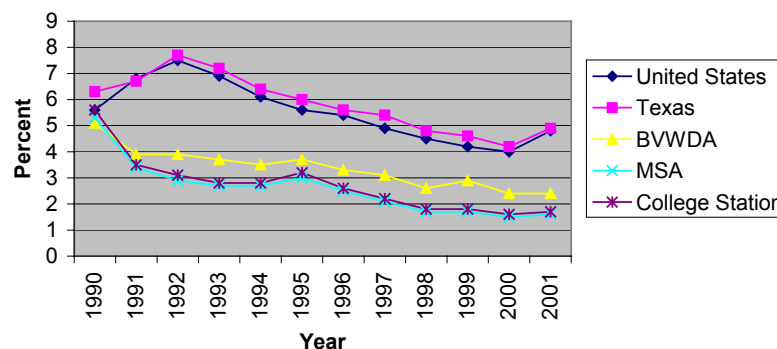
Figure 7: Unemployment Rates (2002)



Source: Texas Workforce Commission

Since 1990, unemployment rates have remained consistently lower than that of the larger regions, particularly in the State and U.S. The economic decline associated with the events of September 11th, 2001 appears to have had little impact on the Bryan-College Station area, thus far.

Figure 8: Average Annual Unemployment Rates 1990-2001



Source: Texas Workforce Commission
